

CLAIMS

I claim:

Sub a 1. A patient monitoring system including the combination of:  
a plurality of pneumatic pressure generators for generating pneumatic pulses, each generator being actuable by a patient;

conduit including a central control line joined to branch lines in a fluid conducting relation with said plurality of pneumatic generators; and

a pneumatic actuated switch acted upon by pneumatic pulses delivered by said central control line from any of said pneumatic generators.

2. The system according to claim 1 wherein said conduit further includes a branched connector for operably connecting said branch lines to said central control line.

Sub a2 3. The system according to claim 1 wherein said pneumatic pressure generators includes an armable generator including a clamp for stationary mounting proximate to a patient bearing area, said armable generator further including a releasable trigger operably connected by a tether to a patient for actuation of said trigger when the travel of the patient exceeds the length of the tether.

4. The system according to claim 1 wherein said pneumatic pressure generators includes a force-actuated pressure generator having a compressible portion for generating said

25 pneumatic pulse in response to pressure applied by the patient to  
said compressible portion.

5. The system according to claim 1 wherein said  
pneumatically actuated switch includes an electrically conductive  
sleeve having an internal bore in which an electrically  
30 conductive ball is slidably contained, said ball being slidable  
in response to a pneumatic pulse from one of said plurality of  
pneumatic generators for creating a momentary electrical  
connection.

6. The system according to claim 1 wherein said  
pneumatically actuated switch includes a housing which is capable  
of providing an air passageway for said pneumatic pulses in a  
plurality of angular orientations of said switch with respect to  
said connection of said switch to said pressure generators.

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